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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/980,419	03/01/2002	Dieter Dohring	616.95USWO	2940

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EXAMINER

WATKINS III, WILLIAM P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1772

DATE MAILED: 12/01/2003

9

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

CLO 9

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/980,419

Applicant(s)

DOHRING

Examiner

William P. Watkins III

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 September 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-18, 19-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jaisle et al. (U.S. 4,473,613) in view of Moroff et al. (U.S. 3,853,594).

Jaisle et al. teaches the formation of a decorative laminate using an acrylic resin and a melamine resin and abrasive particles (col. 2, lines 55-65), that are pressed into the laminate by a belt press or other means. Moroff et al. teaches using a roller to impregnate a composite décor sheet (col. 2, lines 10-25). The instant invention claims a method of making a paper décor sheet that involves the rolling an acrylic solution into the paper layer of a décor panel. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to substitute nip rollers for the belt presses of Jaisle et al. as they serve

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the same function of impregnating a resin solution into the paper. Lamination of a décor sheet to a backing in order to form tile or another other type of surface covering is conventional.

3. Claims 11-18, 26-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jaisle et al. (U.S. 4,473,613).

The reference as noted above teaches a paper with an acrylic impregnation. The instant invention is to a paper with an acrylate impregnation. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have selected the acrylic resin option from those taught by Jaisle et al. in order to form a specific décor sheet. In this rejection no weight is given to the process of rolling in the acrylic.

4. Applicant's arguments filed 16 September 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Jaisle et al. does not teach a paper with a basis weight of 15 grams per square meter to 60 grams per square meter. The examiner disagrees. The examiner constructs the kraft paper core of Jaisle as being equivalent to the carrier plate of the instant specification and the décor sheet

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paper layer of Jaisle as being equivalent to the instant claimed "paper", which forms part of a laminate that can be used as a tile. The decor paper layer of Jaisle is impregnated with acrylic resin and may be 16-160 grams per square meter (col. 4, lines 35-40). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have practiced the claimed range of 15 to 60 grams per square meter in view of this teaching of a broader range, absent unexpected results of an acrylic paper impregnated paper at 16 to 60 grams per square meter as opposed to an acrylic impregnated paper at 61-160 grams per square meter. Applicant's advantages of a thin sheet in the specification are in comparison to a thin sheet without acrylic, which is not the closest prior art.

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will

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expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William P. Watkins III whose telephone number is 703-308-2420. The examiner works an increased flex time schedule, but can normally be reached Monday through Friday, 11:30 A.M. through 8:00 P.M. Eastern Time. The examiner returns all calls within one business day unless an extended absence is noted on his voice mail greeting.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon can be reached on 703-308-4251. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9310 for regular communications and 703-872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0651.

WW/ww

November 22, 2003



WILLIAM P. WATKINS III
PRIMARY EXAMINER